

From: Billie Ehresman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 3:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

After reading the proposed settlement I feel that this would NOT be in the best interest of the American public for the following reasons:

1. The proposed settlement does not prevent Microsoft from bundling web browsers and other application software into its operating system. Illegal bundling and tying practices that were addressed in the Court's 2000 ruling are not in the proposed settlement.
2. The proposed settlement allows Microsoft to benefit from its past anti-competitive behavior. Microsoft has monopolized the web browser market as a result of its anti-competitive actions, but the proposed settlement does not require the company to provide software competitors with the information that they need to ensure product compatibility.
3. The proposed settlement relies too heavily on financially-strapped equipment manufacturers to promote more competition.
4. The proposed settlement does not cover the new generation of web-based, Internet, and multimedia applications. Since the settlement applies only to products that were in use from 1995-98, it won't stop Microsoft from repeating anti-competitive practices with current and future products.
5. The proposed settlement doesn't cover Microsoft Office, although Office has more than 95% of the market for business productivity software. Non-Microsoft Middleware is not interoperable.
6. The proposed settlement lets Microsoft decide which products are part of the Windows operating system and which are applications.
7. The proposed settlement gives Microsoft control over many enforcement decisions, essentially putting the fox in charge of guarding the hen house!
8. The proposed settlement would not require Microsoft to comply with computer industry standards, or prevent the company from undermining or altering standards, even when the

intent is to deliberately deceive competitors.

9. The proposed settlement would allow Microsoft to disable competitive software products, effectively sabotaging any competition.

Microsoft has used bullying tactics countless times to ensure their dominant market share & I feel that they should be treated accordingly to ensure that these practices don't continue unabated. They ignore or are slow to respond to MAJOR security flaws in their products which has disrupted the entire internet at times. If they built cars that couldn't be secured & allowed anyone to just get in wreak havoc on the highways, would they not be held accountable?

Yours truly,
Daniel Ehresman